

ROTOVUE

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Vol. 44 No. 13

OSPREY TRANSITION



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Station working dog heals; overcomes surgery, light duty

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Intramural softball champs win with home run power Pg. 18



'Black Knights' at tip of Operation Spear

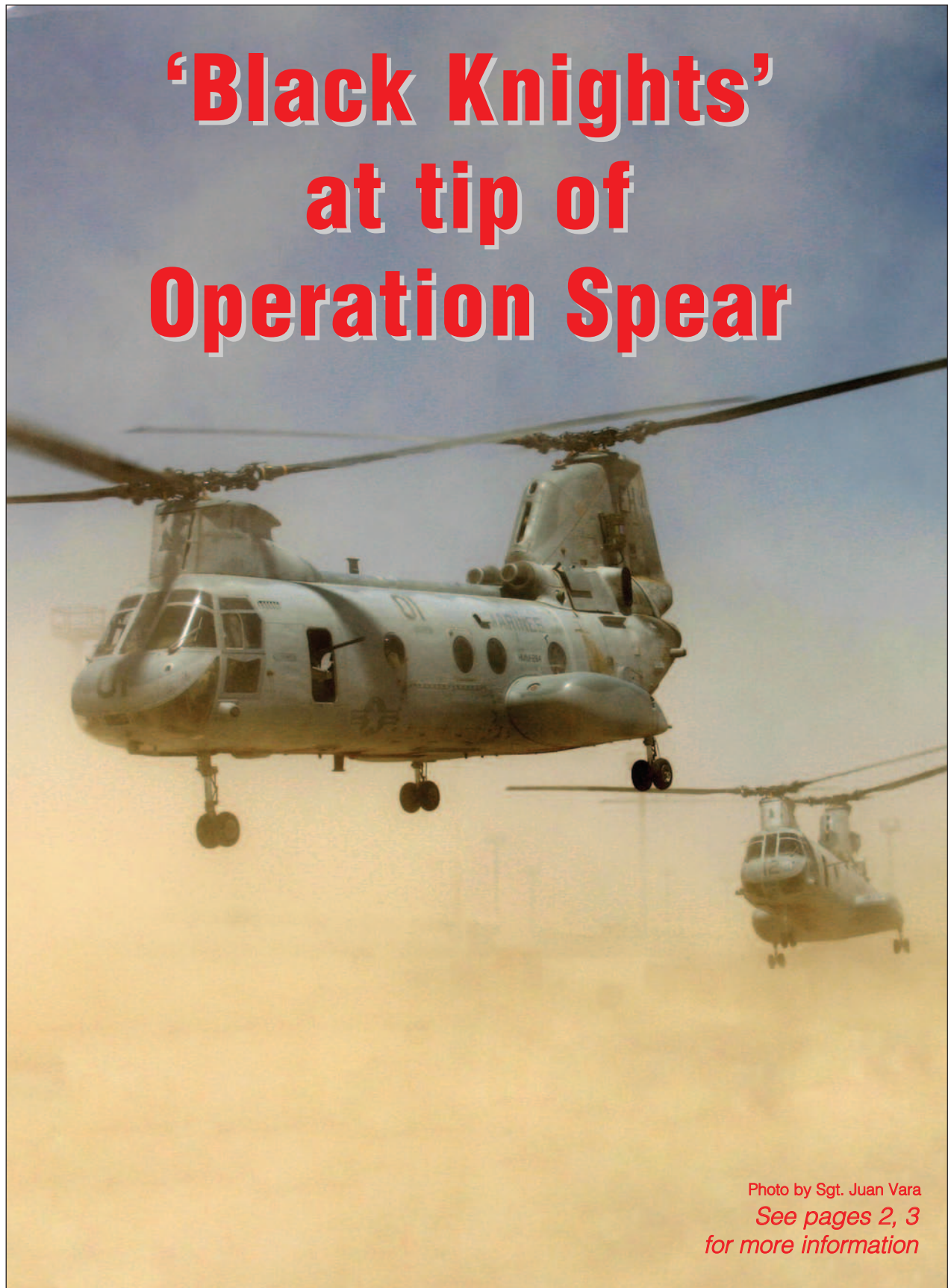


Photo by Sgt. Juan Vara
See pages 2, 3
for more information

FLIGHTLINES

Medical intern graduation

Friends, family and fellow servicemembers are invited to attend the family medicine resident graduation at 11 a.m. in front of the Camp Lejeune Naval Hospital today.

For more information or to RSVP, call 450-4007 or e-mail lbwarden@nhcl.med.navy.mil.

NEA joins MCB in July 4 event

Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., is partnering with the National Endowment for the Arts to celebrate Independence Day.

The NEA will provide musical entertainment featuring Great American Voices. The festivities are scheduled to conclude with Camp Lejeune's Famous Firework Display.

Call Everett Vaughn at the NEA at 451-2094 for more information.

Motorcycle club schedule

Due to increased demand in the number of personnel requesting motorcycle training, an extra class has been scheduled for July 7 - 8.

The instructor will only be able to accommodate six students.

Sign up at building AS-211, Safety Department, 2nd deck.

For information call, 449-5436/6675/5440.

Onslow Beach needs helpers

Volunteers are needed for the annual dune grass planting project on July 9 at Onslow Beach.

Volunteers will learn more about the barrier island ecosystem while helping to protect natural resources.

To sign up or for more information, call Martin Korenek at 451-7235/5063 or e-mail martin.korenek@usmc.mil.

Employment with CIA

Central Intelligence Agency personnel are visiting the Marine

Family Service Center here July 13 at 9 a.m. to talk about CIA employment.

Basic requirements include U. S. citizenship, a university degree with a 3.0 grade point average or better, interest in foreign affairs and a desire to serve the U.S.

Call 449-6110 to register or for more information.

Young Marine boot camp

Boot camp for the Swansboro Young Marines begins July 15 for boys and girls ages 8 to 18.

Meetings are every Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Swansboro Moose Lodge 1425 in the Family Center, located at 161 Norris Road in Swansboro.

Call Susan Shanks at 355-9018 or Tammy Clower at 326-2559 for more information.

Donate old cammies

Marines who have old utility uniforms or black boots can donate them to the Swansboro Young Marines.

For more information about how to donate, contact Susan Shanks at 355-9018 or e-mail at shanksd@charter.net.

Visit www.swansboroyoum.com for more information about the Swansboro Young Marines.

Free USAA GWOT coin

A Fortune 200 financial services company, USAA, is offering free Global War on Terrorism coins to military servicemembers.

Visit <https://www.gc.usaa.com> or call 1-800-793-8240 to find out how to receive a coin.

NAVRIP class now online

Introduction to Naval Aviation Readiness Integrated Improvement Program, (for managers and for users), is now available on Navy E-Learning.

The course, NAVRIIP University

101, is designed to accelerate the spread of the knowledge, skills and methodologies of cost-wise readiness, and to leverage better business practices into Navy and Marine Corps operations.

The mission of NAVRIIP is to achieve aircraft ready for tasking while reducing costs.

Visit the "What's New" section on www.nko.navy.mil to enroll.

Sexual assault training

Department of Defense sponsored joint sexual assault response coordinator training is scheduled for the following dates and locations: West Coast, July 12-15 in San Diego, Calif.; Western Pacific, July 19-22 in Hawaii; and a make-up session Sept. 27-30 in Atlanta.

For more information, read Marine Administrative Message 248/05 or call (703) 432-9072.

2005/2006 Station guides

The 2005/2006 New River guide and telephone directory is available for pickup at the Joint Public Affairs Office.

JPAO is located in building

AS-425 on Campbell Street, near the new Air Traffic Control Tower.

All units and shops are encouraged to pick up the guides and distribute them to individual Marines.

For more information, call 449-6196/6197.

Station athletes are selected

Two Marines from the New River basketball team were selected to attend the All-Marine Basketball Camp.

The two Marines are: Sgt. N. C. Sales, Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 network administrator, and Lance Cpl. J. A. Revere, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 supply worker.

In other basketball news, Cherry Point advanced to the finals with a 99 - 63 victory over Quantico in the East Coast Regional Elimination Round tournament.

On the cover

CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 fly overhead during Operation Spear in Iraq. Operation Spear is an offensive aimed at eliminating insurgents from the Al Anbar province. See page 3 for more.



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Executive Officer
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Sgt. Maj. Lewis Summerville

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If you have any comments or suggestions you may also contact the public affairs office at (910) 449-6196 or fax (910) 449-6478.

Station feasts at free fish fry



Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale

Staff Sgt. Carl D. Knight, 2nd Force Service Support Group maintenance battalion administration chief, sits with his son, Carl Jr., at the fish fry sponsored by the Jacksonville-Onslow County Chamber of Commerce at the Station Marina June 15. This is an annual event the Military Affairs Committee conducts to thank the military and the troops.

Commandant visits 26th MEU after live-fire training; awards coins

Gunnery Sgt. Mark E. Bradley
contributor

ABOARD USS KEARSARGE -- The Marines and Sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) received a special visit June 17 when the Commandant of the Marine Corps visited the troops deployed aboard the ships of the Kearsarge Strike Group in the Arabian Gulf.

General Michael W. Hagee addressed the massed Marines and Sailors on each of the ships, giving them his views on the War on Terror and the role of the Expeditionary Strike Group.

The commandant wasted no time addressing the one question most Marines and Sailors of the 26th MEU had on their minds as they prepare to enter the second half of deployment: "Why has the MEU not been deployed into Iraq?"

After nearly a month on the ground in the Kuwaiti Desert, the 26th completed live-fire training on June 11 that exercised the full spectrum of this Marine air ground task force's capabilities.

At Udairi Range, the MEU incorporated its assets into a comprehensive exercise that focused heavily on small-unit tactics and coordinated-arms training.

The vast ranges, designed to mirror many of the conditions coalition forces face in the region, provided an ideal venue for each aspect of the training.

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162 logged more than 840 flight hours over the course of the training. Its pilots and aircrews flew 475 sorties in helicopters operating from

Camp Buehring and AV-8B Harriers conducting security operations from the assault ship, USS Kearsarge (LHD 3).

Hagee answered the question, stressing the importance of maintaining the 26th MEU (SOC) as the theater reserve.

He recently spoke to Gen. John P. Abizaid, the theater commander for Central Command, who maintains concerns for other areas in the region where "bad things" could happen, Hagee said.

"He sees the expeditionary strike group as that flexible, fast force that can respond to a contingency almost anywhere in the area of responsibility," Hagee said. "And he knows that if he asks, you will accomplish your mission."

Hagee closed his flight deck address on the Kearsarge with a coin presentation for fourteen Marines and one Navy corpsman. Hagee made it clear he has strict guidelines for giving out the coveted coins.

"I don't just hand out a coin because an individual can fog a mirror. You have to accomplish two things in order to get a Commandant's coin," he said. "One, you have to do something above what a normal Marine or Sailor does, and that is a pretty high standard because Marines and Sailors are doing magnificent work today," he said.

"The second criterion is the Marine or Sailor has to be recommended by his or her command or supervisor.

"These Marines and Sailors have met both those criteria, and it's my pleasure to present them a coin," he said.

Hagee asked one thing of all the Marines and Sailors before he left. "Take care of one another while you are out here and on your way home," he said.



Sgt. Roman Yurek

ABOARD USS KEARSARGE -- General Michael W. Hagee, commandant of the Marine Corps, speaks to 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) personnel during a visit on June 17.

'Black Knights' support offensive

Sgt. Juan Vara
contributor

AL QAIM, Iraq -- The "Black Knights" of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 have a detachment of personnel and aircraft here supporting Operation Spear, an offensive aimed at eliminating insurgents and foreign fighters from the northwestern Al Anbar province.

According to Maj. Chris Boniface, detachment officer-in-charge and CH-46E Sea Knight pilot, the Marines are conducting casualty evacuations, combat re-supply and assault support.

While the majority of the squadron is based at Al Asad Air Base, where they already have a mission to carry out, Boniface said sending a detachment here doesn't affect the squadron's workload. Recently, they had a Marine detachment here conducting the same types of missions in support of Operation Matador.

"We plan for these types of detachments," said Boniface, a native of Jacksonville, N.C. "As a '46' squadron, that is our job -- to be able to meet the requirements and needs of the Marines on the ground."

Personnel of UH-60A Blackhawks from the U.S. Army's 571st Medical Company (Air Ambulance) was already operating out of this base. The increase of activity caused by the operation created a need for more personnel and helicopters, and HMM-264 was ready to accept the mission.

"This is what we're supposed to be doing," said Sgt. Ryan C. Smith, a CH-46E Sea Knight crew chief with the squadron. "We are able to provide on-call support whenever they need it."

The "Black Knights" are ready to charge into battle in support of the U.S. and coalition efforts in Iraq. Whether providing casualty evacuation or providing logistic or assault support, their objective is simple and always the same: to accomplish the mission.

AL QAIM, Iraq -- Second Marine Division Marines approach two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 that will take them into the battlefield June 18. The squadron, based at Al Asad Air Base, has a detachment of Marines and aircraft here conducting casualty evacuation missions.



Sgt. Juan Vara

Station XO retires

Lance Cpl. Brandon M. Gale
correspondent

Lieutenant Col. Karl S. Elebash relinquished his duties as Station executive officer during a retirement ceremony at the Officers Club on Friday.

Commitment to mission accomplishment and professionalism has been a constant trait in Elebash's career, said Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer.

"He is totally dedicated to the Marine Corps and in the past two years, he has been totally dedicated to this Air Station," he said. "He does what it takes to carry out the mission and to support the Marines and their families."

Sergeant Maj. Lewis L. Summerville, Station sergeant major, said Elebash, with his background as an aviator, is well aware of the mission of the fighting squadrons here, and because of it, has been able to provide a strong right hand to the CO when it comes to dealing with the multitude of issues that arise each day.

This knowledge, according to Forand, has given Elebash the means to be an extremely qualified executive officer.

"He has a tremendous amount of fleet experience," said Forand. "When the units here request support, he knows what kind of attention they should be getting and how to answer their

requests. He knows exactly what to do, and he gets the job done every time."

Summerville also praised Elebash's character, saying he is a dedicated American, unyielding in his loyalty and commitment to God, family, country, Corps and mission accomplishment.

Elebash was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Officer Candidate Class upon graduating the University of Alabama in July 1980. After completion of The Basic School and flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., he was designated as a Naval aviator.

Elebash's first duty station was aboard this Station where he was assigned to Marine Helicopter Training Squadron-204 for training as a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot.

After completing training, he served initially with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266 and then transferred in 1986 to HMM-264 and was subsequently deployed to the Mediterranean Sea. Upon completion of his tour, he returned to HMT-204 to serve as an instructor and flight line officer until August 1988.

The next 14 years saw Elebash gain a wealth of knowledge as he attended an Army Aviation Officers Advanced Course at Fort Rucker, Ala., and was deployed several more times. He also served at Headquarters Marine Corps and the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Va.

Air Force Detachment 2, 18th Flight Test Squadron gets new commander

Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

Lieutenant Col. Gary L. McCollum, Air Force Detachment 2, 18th Flight Test Squadron commanding officer, relinquished command to Capt. Derrick W. Jee in a change of command ceremony at Marine Tiltrotor Test and Evaluation Squadron-22 on June 24.

The ceremony began with the posting of the colors by an Air Force honor guard.

During the ceremony, McCollum was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, along with the Meritorious Service Medal.

The presenter of the awards was Lt. Col. Joseph B. Maguire, 18th FLTS commanding officer, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command and Framingham, Mass., native.

After the awards presentation, the detachment guidon was passed from the outgoing CO to the incoming CO, to signify the passing of command.

McCollum, a native of Broomfield, Colo., earned his commission through Air Force Reserved Officers Training Corps in April 1987 and after 12 years of flight training, he was board-selected to work with the Osprey program here.

After qualifying as a pilot and becoming the first initial training cadre pilot for the V-22, McCollum was selected as the commanding officer of Det. 2, 18th FLTS.

McCollum's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Liberation Medal Government of Kuwait.

"We live in exciting times," McCollum said. "When I was first honored with the privilege of commanding Detachment 2, we only had one test aircraft. Now, three years later, we have twenty-three airplanes and trained over fifty pilots and sixty crew chiefs and engineers.

"That says a lot about the future of the V-22."

Jee is a major select and

said he realizes how difficult the path he is traveling will be.

"I've got a huge pair of boots to fill," he said.

To the servicemembers involved in the Osprey program, Jee promised to keep a high priority on the mission and success of the program, as well as the safety of the troops in his charge.

"Today I make a two-fold promise – first, I promise to give 100 percent to the mission and the task at hand. Second, I promise to give 110 percent to my fellow Soldiers," he explained.

As a Chief Warrant Officer in the Army, Jee, a native of Seattle, was selected for Officer Candidate School and transferred to the Air Force as a second lieutenant.

His personal awards include the Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

"Please take good care of (Jee), I know he will take good care of you," said McCollum. "Keep up the good work and Godspeed."

Marine Corps closer to replacing 'Phrogs' with Ospreys

Master Sgt. Brenda Donnell
correspondent

Marine Test and Evaluation Squadron-22 completed operational evaluations of the Osprey on June 18, according to 2nd Lt. Geraldine Carey, VMX-22 spokeswoman.

A summary report, to be signed by Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force Rear Adm. David Architzel, will be forwarded to the Department of Defense in the next few weeks, she said.

While at DoD, final data will be added, and then the final report will be sent to Congress for approval, Carey said. Congress' nod would bring the Marine Corps' plans to purchase more Ospreys to replace the aging fleet of CH-46E Sea Knights closer to fruition.

With this end in mind, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 was temporarily decommissioned earlier this month, and maintenance personnel are already undergoing training at Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron-204, the only other Osprey squadron in the Marine Corps.

Although Congress has not yet officially approved the Marine Corps' purchase of up to 360 Ospreys, Maj. Craig C. LeFlore, VMMT-204 logistics officer, said

they are proceeding with plans to train and stand up two Osprey squadrons per year through 2010.

He said putting a plan for Osprey training into action is necessary to keep things moving smoothly when the Marine Corps is given the green light to begin purchasing Ospreys.

Pilot and crew chief training are slated to begin in October, said LeFlore. The commanding officer for the new VMM-263 squadron and 18 pilots have already been selected.

Having a plan and a goal is important to keep training on schedule, he said, and once the East coast squadrons are operational, squadrons on the West coast, Hawaii and Okinawa will begin training.

Whether they meet their 2010 goal here and when training begins elsewhere all depends on Congress, according to LeFlore.

Manufactured by Bell Boeing, Ospreys boast new technology and lift capabilities that far exceed the CH-46E.

Navy's Sailor of the Year to pin on chief, credits Marine Corps

Cpl. Steven A. Sawyer
correspondent

Of more than 50,000 Sailors in the United States Navy competing for the title, only one is deemed worthy of the title Sailor of the Year. This year, Petty Officer 1st Class Shannon R. Dittlinger is the one.

The Sailor of the Year becomes the embodiment of the Navy's values and goals, and a personal representative to the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, according to Senior Chief Robert E. Brown, New River Branch Medical Clinic acting senior enlisted advisor.

Earning that title wasn't easy, either, according to Dittlinger. The first step was in December, when she was recommended and won the

"Shore Sailor of the Quarter" board for Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan, where she was stationed at the time.

After winning the quarterly board, she was automatically nominated for the yearly board which she promptly won. Then she became "Shore Sailor of the Year" for Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan. Next, she won the Marine Forces, Pacific Fleet board.

"From there I was sent to the Chief of Naval Operations to represent the Pacific Fleet for the entire Navy," said the Ocala, Fla., native. "There was a lot of tough competition there. All of them where great Sailors."

Representatives included Sailors from Pacific, Atlantic and training commands, and a nominated representative directly from the

Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

"It took a week, but on May 15, I finally won," she said.

With this achievement, Dittlinger also earned a meritorious promotion.

"On July 27th, I'll have been in for 12 years," said Dittlinger. "I have to go up to Washington, D.C., again on July 21 to be meritoriously promoted to chief."

According to Dittlinger, only four Sailors a year receive meritorious promotions to the rank of chief, and though it depends on the job field, it may take a Sailor up to 16 years before they rate the rank of chief without receiving it meritoriously.

However, Dittlinger, though proud of her achievements, believes that much of the credit for her success lies in the Marine

Corps.

"One of the master chiefs on the board commented that when I walked in the room, my confidence and military bearing was what won out," she said. "These are little things that I've picked up from the Marines around me."

"There is just a certain military bearing that the Marine Corps has instilled in me just by being around them. Eye contact, respect, it's all from them."

Dittlinger, who is currently stationed at the New River Branch Medical Clinic, said she has a lot of respect for those Marines she helps and works with. After all, she originally wanted to be one.

"My dad was into motorcycles, and one of his buddies was a Marine in Vietnam," she said. "He spoke highly of the Marine Corps and what they stood for. My aunt was in the Air Force, my grandfather in the Navy, and my dad was in the Army. I'd always known I would go in the military, and the Marine Corps sounded like the best choice for me."

"I went to the Marine Corps recruiter and told him I wanted to be in the medical field. He replied that the Corps doesn't have a medical field and pointed me 'next door.'"

"So, I went to the Navy recruiter and told him that I wanted to join, but only if I could serve with the Marines. He said if I made it through Hospital Corps Medical School, then I would."

According to Dittlinger, school was a "breeze," and other than one year stationed at Naval Hospital,



Cpl. Steven A. Sawyer

Petty Officer 1st Class Shannon R. Dittlinger looks through medical records on June 21 at the New River Branch Medical Clinic.

Orlando, Fla., she has served shoulder to shoulder with Marines.

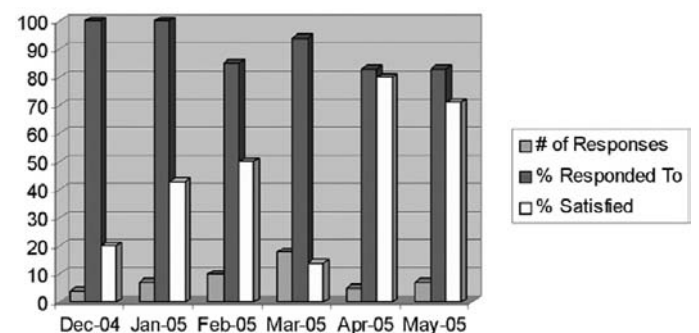
"I'm in for a minimum of 20 (years), for sure, and hopefully, I'll be with the Marines the whole time," said Dittlinger.

Dittlinger has brought prestige to her unit and Station, and the Hospital Corps as a whole, which recently celebrated its 107th birthday, according to Brown.

"It's rare to meet someone who has achieved as much as she has, and it's an honor to have her in this command," said Brown, from Long Beach, Calif. "If she keeps on at the pace that she's going, there's no telling how far she'll go."

"So far, she's been an outstanding representative of the Hospital Corps and the Navy as a whole."

Station ICE statistics



The Interactive Customer Evaluation system is a Web-based tool that collects feedback on services provided by various organizations throughout the Department of Defense. The ICE system allows customers to submit online comment cards to rate the service providers they have encountered at military installations and related facilities around the world. To access the Station ICE Web site, visit http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=122 or click on the "ICE" link at www.newriver.usmc.mil.

Lejeune biologist finds new habitat

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo correspondent

A new biologist was recently hired by the Environmental Affairs Department here to help ensure all activities aboard Station comply with federal, state, local and Department of Defense environmental laws and policies.

Bianca Klein, who worked in the threatened and endangered species section of the Environmental Management Division aboard Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., was hired to fill the position.

“I have felt welcome and comfortable since the moment I started,” she said. “I am certainly looking forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead of me here at New River.”

According to Kirk Kropinack, director of environmental affairs, Klein’s background will be very useful in fulfilling the role.

“She will be handling a wide variety of programs for us, to include administration of the National Environmental Policy Act, wetlands, Coastal Area Management Act, sedimentation and erosion, game/non-game management, Bird/Animal Strike Hazard, cultural resources and exotic and invasive species control,” he said.

In addition, she will be a major contributor in completing a Station-wide wildlife hazard assessment and examination, said Kropinack.

According to the government service job description, Klein will also be in charge of coordinating and implementing financial and budget-execution activities to include: obligations, expenditures and shortfalls for assigned programs.

According to Kropinack, she seems to be completing these tasks expeditiously and professionally.

“We are very pleased to have her on staff as our new biologist,” he said. “She is fitting in very well and has exhibited much initiative in the short time she's been here.”

For Klein, who is married to a UH-1N Huey pilot stationed here, the job seems to be rewarding enough on its own.

“To be completely honest, I love my new position here. Everyone here is extremely friendly and always willing to help,” she said.

Stay safe during the holiday, follow these tips

Department of Safety and Standardization contributor

Summer fun in the sun is in full swing, and safety is vital. Many drive long distances to visit their families and friends. Swimming, boating, off-road driving, barbecuing and fireworks are popular activities for the Fourth of July holiday. Regardless of the activity, forethought and common sense must be exercised at all times.

To meet the challenge of safety and choices during this extended Fourth of July weekend, keep in mind some of these safety hints to minimize risks in order to avoid death or injury:

Driving

Drinking and driving is one of the most common driving hazards. Drivers must protect themselves and passengers by being focused and on the lookout for impaired drivers.

Drivers under the influence of alcohol often display certain characteristic driving behaviors such as weaving, swerving, drifting or straddling the centerline; driving on the wrong side of the road; driving at a very slow speed; turning abruptly or responding slowly to traffic signals; and driving with headlights off at night

Drivers who find themselves in front of an impaired driver should turn right at the nearest intersection and let the driver pass. If the impaired driver is in front, stay a safe distance behind. If an impaired driver is coming from the opposite direction, slow down, move to the right and stop. Alert the police that there is an impaired driver on the road.

In 2003, a total of 38,252 fatal motor vehicle traffic crashes were recorded in the United States that accounted for 42,643 fatalities. Of these crashes, an estimated 40 percent were alcohol related according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Three

in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

Water activities

As summer heats up, many are drawn to the refreshing embrace of water from a myriad of sources such as pools, lakes, quarries, rivers, streams, ponds and the beach. A common feature is the unforgiving nature they hold for any incapacitated or neglectful swimmer; danger often hides beneath calm and serene circumstances.

Each summer many lives, mostly children, are claimed during water-related activities such as boating, swimming and fishing.

To keep swimming fun and safe, it is important to be careful, especially when children are involved. Here are some tips and facts about water safety:

Summer fun includes swimming at the pool or beach. To prevent a tragedy, never leave children alone in the water, even for a moment.

Remember that teaching children to swim does not mean they are safe in the water.

At the pool or beach, make sure anyone watching children knows CPR and is able to rescue a child if needed. Also, it’s important to keep rescue equipment available.

Never water ski, snorkel or scuba dive without instruction and supervision from a qualified instructor or teacher.

Never swim around anchored boats in motorboat lanes or where people are water skiing. Also, never swim during electrical storms.

To avoid spinal injuries from diving, swimmers should not dive in shallow waters or where the depth of the water is not known.

Also, do not dive into above-ground pools.

Fishing and boating

Activities around the water such as boating are among the safest when compared to the numbers of people participating. However, about 4,000 Americans die in water-related accidents each year. Of these deaths, about 20 percent involve boats.

When boating, fishing or canoeing, remember that every passenger should always be wearing a life jacket, even if they are good swimmers. When buying a life jacket for a child, make sure it is the right size. The jacket should be snug and not loose and be worn as per the instructions with all straps belted properly.

Most boating fatalities occur on boats 14 feet or less in length; the great majority of boating deaths are found on smaller, normally protected inland lakes or bays; two out of three boating deaths involve drowning after falling out of, swamping or capsizing a small boat; in the average fatality, the boat is sitting still or moving slowly, and if it has an engine, it’s 25 horsepower or less; approximately 85 percent of the people who perish while boating wouldn't have if they had been wearing a life jacket or personal floatation device.

Barbeques

Cooking out is a great way to spend the holiday, but unsafe food handling can cause illness from bacteria such as E. coli. There are

See **SAFETY** on page 12

Station Marines make blood flow



Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb

Private Benjamin L. Archer, Installation Personnel Administration Center records clerk from Jacksonville, Fla., makes a "war-face" while he experiences the prick of the needle as he gives blood during the Armed Services Blood Program blood drive on June 14. The goal of the event was to gather blood from donors here to ship to servicemembers at home and abroad. The ASBP blood drive was hosted by IPAC. For more information about hosting a blood drive for your unit, contact Cal J. Glazier, ASBP donor recruiter at 450-4628.

Courts-martial

A lance corporal from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 was charged and found guilty at a general court martial May 12 for: one specification of Article 120, rape; and one specification of article 134, indecent assault.

Punishment: Bad conduct discharge, 54 months confinement, reduction to the rank of E-1 and forfeiture of \$1,641 for 54 months.

A private first class from Marine Aircraft Group-29 was charged and found guilty at a special court martial May 19 for: one specification of Article 86, unauthorized

absence.

Punishment: 100 days confinement, reduction to the rank of E-1 and forfeiture of \$500 for two months.

A lance corporal from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 was charged and found guilty at a special court martial on May 19 of: five specifications of Article 112a, wrongful use of marijuana; and one specification of Article 81, conspiracy.

Punishment: Bad conduct discharge, 120 days confinement, reduction to the rank of E-1, forfeiture of \$823 for four months.

Dog barks at death's doorstep

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

"This was a building search from hell," said Cpl. Ian R. Burns, a military dog handler from Farmingdale, Maine, and Station acting supervisor of the military working dog section.

On Aug. 18, two improvised explosive devices laid-in-wait beneath the floors of a group of Company F, 2nd battalion, 4th Regiment Marines who were deployed to Ramadi, Iraq. Detonating almost simultaneously, the bombs nearly felled the building, reducing the structure to a creaking fun-house of rebar, concrete and unseen danger.

According to reports, the door leading from the roof to the inside of the building was bowed in from the blast, trapping the Marines on the wobbly roof with no way to escape. The building was supported by nothing more than some wire and a single pillar.

The job of helping to get the Marines out safely and sniffing out other potential bombs was placed on the shoulders of Burns and his now 5-year-old German shepherd, Cak. The pair charged into the unstable environment, worked together as a team and got their Marines out of harms way,



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Corporal Ian R. Burns, a military dog handler from Farmingdale, Maine, and Station acting supervisor of the military working dog section, takes a break from training with his partner, Cak. After surviving a deployment to Iraq, Cak developed a "splenic torsion" that almost ended his life.

adding a chapter to their story together.

Their next chapter began in November 2004, when Burns and Cak returned from their deployment. Burns said that both he and Cak were happy in their own way: Burns, because he was home and away from mortal danger; Cak because he simply had air conditioning.

However, their joy in returning home would be somewhat short-lived.

Toward the end of April 2005, Burns and his fellow dog handlers noticed that Cak, who normally "eats like a mad-man," wasn't touching his food. Taking this as a warning sign, Cak was watched closely.

The following day, during a provost marshal certification session, Burns witnessed Cak acting strangely; he had become lethargic and was unable to perform the certification exercises.

Burns gathered him up and took him to the veterinarian, where Cak underwent a day-long battery of tests that included an abdomen exam and a sonogram in the maternity ward at the Camp Lejeune, N.C., Naval Hospital.

The results of these exams were inconclusive, and Cak became the subject of exploratory surgery the following morning.

The surgery uncovered a "splenic torsion," a condition that caused Cak's spleen to virtually flip over, swelling to five times its normal size, and killing itself along with most of his pancreas, said Burns.

The prognosis for survival was bleak. Cak couldn't survive without an operational pancreas, and the veterinarians weren't sure they could save him, said Burns.

"My heart sunk. I was in total shock and disbelief," said Burns. "He's my working dog, but he's also my best friend. He was the only one with me in Iraq; he's my boy."

"We were with him 24-hours a day for a week," added Cpl. Brooks Sanderson, a military dog handler and Pensacola, Fla., native. "He was near death. This was out of nowhere. No one knows the reason he was sick or why."

After the successful surgery to repair what was left of his pancreas, Cak continued to grow stronger each day and inch just a little farther away from death's doorstep.

"He's a high drive dog," explained Burns. "He wanted to get better and he had my support and the support of the other handlers."

During this time, Cak, just like all injured "devil dogs," went on light duty for more than a month to heal from his surgery.

According to Burns and Sanderson, no one knew quite what to expect from Cak as he improved gradually. There remained unanswered questions as to his ability to come back to work after the severity of his condition, said Burns.



Cpl. Jason T. Chadwick

(Left and below) This building was destroyed by two improvised explosive devices in an attack on Marines from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment on Aug. 18. Marines used this observation post to overlook the city of Ramadi and prevent terrorists from planting IEDs along the roadways. Burns, a military dog handler here, was deployed to Ramadi during this time and described the incident as, "a building search from hell." Burns and his partner, Cak, cleared all remaining potential threats, and helped to save Marines trapped on the roof after the blast.



Cpl. Jason T. Chadwick

Cak would soon answer all questions, returning to duty shortly after healing and rejoining Burns on full active duty.

"He was good before, but he's even better now," said Burns. "He seems more focused today than he did before his surgery."

"His detection skills are better, and he has a higher drive," added Sanderson.

Although Cak will never deploy again due to health concerns, he has earned a place on Station by his performance alone, said Burns.

"We're both a little goofy at times, but we're each unique and eccentric," said Burns. "It's been very rewarding to work with Cak; we're a good team."

For now, Cak and Burns will continue working together, healthy and always looking forward to adding another chapter in their story.



courtesy photo

Burns stands in front of a building he finished searching during his deployment in Iraq. His partner, Cak, was with him every step of the way during several dangerous building searches. Burns and Cak lived together closely, developing a bond that has helped them achieve mission accomplishment.

ATC Facility Officer and Future Operations Officer recognized, receive Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals

Feltham pinned for actions as MACS-2, Detachment Bravo, detachment commander during OIF II

Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

"I blame it on the Marines working for me," said Capt. Raymond P. Feltham.

The Air Traffic Control facility officer isn't blaming his Marines for not accomplishing the mission, however. He's blaming them for being the reason he was awarded the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

"Any award an officer gets, it really comes down to the great Marines working for him," said Feltham.

Feltham received the award, which recognized his actions in Iraq and Afghanistan and his ability to accomplish the mission during a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron formation on June 1.

"It basically encompasses my time as commander of (Marine Air Traffic Control Squadron-2, Detachment Bravo) during our recent deployments," said the native of Virginia Beach, Va. "More specifically, our actions at Camp Korean Village (Iraq)."

The "Eyes of the Marine Air Ground Task Force," deployed by ship to Iraq in February 2004. Feltham said this is unusual for ATC, as in many cases the Marines are airlifted directly to the location they are assigned to control.

"We normally fly to the airport and set up, since we're ATC. But this time we went to Kuwait and basically convoyed with all of our gear in tow to Al Asad, up through Baghdad and Fallujah, and then back down to Camp Korean Village," he said.

According to Feltham, the detachment was deployed to Camp Korean Village from March until August 2004, where their mission assignment included overall support of the forward operating base, including their more specified air traffic control duties.

"We stayed slightly more than six months. The irony for us was that we actually got to man the walls and go on security patrols, something we generally don't get to do," he said. "The term 'every Marine a rifleman' was especially true for all of us at Camp Korean."

"He really pushed all of us to go above and beyond our

normal assignment," said Gunnery Sgt. Charles C. Crampton, ATC tower chief from Lancaster, Calif. "He was all about stepping up and doing more than we were originally tasked to do. We did patrols and stood watch, and even incorporated (the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program) into our (physical training)."

Feltham's award documentation cites his overall level of mission accomplishment, even under enemy fire.

"We were mortared a lot, though I'm proud to say that none of our Marines were hurt," Feltham said. "One time, probably about (8 a.m.) in the morning, we were playing volleyball for PT, and the next thing we know, boom, all around. We took cover, and after it let up, we just went back to the game."

Such incidents were commonplace, according to Crampton.

"The first few times, it does get to you. The alarms go off, and you hear the impacts. But after awhile, it becomes part of the norm. You do what has to be done, and get on with completing the mission," said Feltham.

At Camp Korean, MACS-2 worked their normal assignment of controlling the skies over their sector of Iraq with many flights devoted to crucial medical evacuations.

"I can't get into everything that happened, as we still have Marines doing their jobs there, but we did handle a few medical evacuations for Marines, Soldiers and Sailors, as well as for the Iraqis."

Being recognized for his leadership ability was something that took him by surprise, Feltham said.

"We don't work for awards. We just do our job and do it the best we can. The gratification as far as a Marine Corps officer is concerned is just having a successful tour," he said.

Feltham said he couldn't express enough how important his Marines were in making that tour as successful as it was.

"It's not an overstatement when I say that I had an awesome group of Marines with me," he said. "When we were getting ready to go on our convoy, I honestly had to pull them aside and tell them that I'd never worked with a harder working group of Marines in my 14 years in the Corps. I sincerely attribute any recognition I receive to the Marines around me."



Becker's work in OIF II was commendable

Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

A Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal was awarded to Chief Warrant Officer Brian S. Becker during a monthly Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron formation on June 1.

Becker, H&HS future operations officer, earned the award while in Iraq from February to September.

According to Becker, he supervised the construction of seven landing zones, marked airfields and installed a high power run-up, which is used to allow aircraft to run their engines full throttle yet remain stationary to run tests in a safer environment.

"The aircraft support the infantry, so without these tests, an aircraft can go down, and the warfighters lose close air support," the Miramar, Fla., native explained.

According to Master Sgt. Kert Lang, Aircraft Rescue Firefighting staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Becker has always stood out from the rest for his leadership capabilities.

"I've known (Becker) since he was a sergeant in March 1997. I was a section leader here at New River," Lang explained. "He was one of the sergeants I relied on to get things done."

"His (occupational) knowledge easily made him stand separate from his peers. That, coupled with his no-nonsense, common-sense approach, made him the 'go to guy' for me."

Beyond that, Becker was well known and a friend of the troops, Lang said.

"He had a lot of friends, but it was clear to everyone that while at work, those relationships would not interfere with what he had to do for the Marine Corps," the Troy, N.H., native said.

According to Becker, a vast majority of his time in Iraq was spent overseeing the improvements being made at Al Asad.

"We transformed that place from a battle-scarred Army helicopter outpost to the main base for throughput into Iraq," he explained.

"He fights for what is right, for the mission and for the Marines, and while that may 'ruffle some feathers,' it's the primary reason the warrant officer ranks exist," Lang said. "He's in his element."

24 hour local Crime Stoppers hot line: 938-3273

Roto View

What safety tips would you give servicemembers for the Fourth of July?



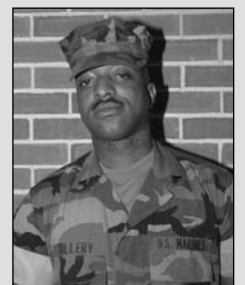
“Just use your head and don’t do anything you wouldn’t want your mother to see.”

**Cpl. Cassandra J. Baker
crewman,
Headquarters and
Headquarters Squadron,
Aspen, Colo.**



“When you’re playing with fireworks, don’t be drunk and stupid.”

**Pfc. Jason M. Bischoff
aviation ordnance
technician,
Marine Light/Attack
Helicopter Squadron-167,
Atlanta**



“Don’t drink and drive or ride with someone who has been drinking.”

**Cpl. Jefferson M. Tillery
warehouse clerk,
Headquarters and
Headquarters Squadron,
Tillery, N.C.**

Training; a key to success

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Training can be the key to success in any work environment, but in the Marine Corps, it can be the difference between life and death.

As Marines, combat is a way of life. So why is it when Marines are told they are slated for training there is an expression of disgust on the faces of many?

I think a lot of them have the belief that they will never use the lessons they are receiving, but I guarantee there are Marines alive today because of the training they received before going to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Let's start with the most common training element in the Marine Corps - the dreaded physical fitness test.

This element seems to draw out the worst in people, but in my opinion it's one of the most important. Now, I know that the likelihood of having to do 100 crunches and 20 pull-ups in a combat environment is slim to none, but that's not the purpose behind the PFT.

The PFT is designed to test the strength and stamina of the upper body, midsection and lower body, as well as the efficiency of the cardiovascular system, according to Marine Corps Order 6100.12.

You may not think it's important, but once you get into a situation where you need to pull injured people out of a bad situation, you may find out why the Marine Corps tests those abilities. Don't think just because you are in the "wing" situations like this cannot happen. There are plenty Marines here on Station that can tell you otherwise.

I am not saying you have to be the strongest or fastest Marine during the PFT, but you should dig deep down into your gut and put some effort into getting your body into shape, not just for the PFT, but for your own health and ability to perform better when the situation arises.

Enough about the PFT, now I want to talk about the rifle range training.

I recently went through my annual rifle qualification and was amazed of how many Marines were complaining about having to be on the range or weren't taking the training seriously.

This is probably the most important training a Marine can receive.

Without being able to fire cor-

rectly and on target, you cannot be an efficient rifleman. It doesn't matter what military occupational specialty you are, because every Marine is a rifleman. Recently, in Iraq there were band members guarding the gates.

The biggest complaint I hear is about field firing. This firing day is just as important as the actual rifle qualification, as it is most like-

ly the closest training resembling a combat scenario most Marines will receive. For one, you are wearing the gear you would wear in an actual combat environment, allowing your body to learn what it feels like to fire when engaging the enemy.

Last, but certainly not least, is the nuclear, biological and chemical mask training.

Now I don't like breathing a chemical that makes snot run down my face either, but I recognize the value of the training I receive. Nobody knows when or where an NBC attack will occur, which is why it's better to receive the training when you can before it's too late. I don't think any of us want to personally test the effects of any NBC agent.

I only talked about a few aspects of training the

Marine Corps requires every Marine to qualify or participate in. Take all of the training you receive seriously, because it may be what saves your life.



Lance Cpl. Nathan Alan Heusdens

CAMP COYOTE, Kuwait - Private first class Brian Cramer, a Cincinnati native with Combined Anti-Armor Team, Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, dons his gas mask during weapons-firing drills at Camp Coyote March 1, 2003, during Operation Enduring Freedom.

SAFETY from page 6

several ways chefs can prevent food-borne illnesses.

Keep meat chilled until you're ready to cook it. Allow meat to completely thaw in the refrigerator before placing on the grill. Marinate meat in a tight-sealing container, especially when transporting meat in a cooler to a picnic or tailgate party.

Avoid cross contamination. A prime cause of summer food-borne illness is the transfer of bacteria from uncooked to cooked meat.

Wash hands frequently with soapy water when working with raw meat. Keep food and drink separate. Remember to wash all cutting boards and containers that touched uncooked meat in hot, soapy water.

Use a meat thermometer. Meat must reach a temperature of 160 degrees before it is safe to serve. Avoid overgrowth of bacteria by storing food in a refrigerator or cooler within two hours of serving. When the temperature rises above 85 degrees, food should generally be stored in a cool place within one hour of serving. Leftovers should be packed in clean containers and put back in the coolers.

When in doubt, throw it out. Food left out more than two hours has often been contaminated as a result of heat exposure.

Fireworks

Fireworks are an American tradition. They can provide hours of wholesome, family entertainment, but must be used by adults carefully and safely.

Thousands of people are injured by fireworks each year. Children 14 and younger suffer the most injuries which are usually to the eyes, head or hands.

North Carolina law states that sparklers, fountains, smoke devices, snake and glow-worms, trick noisemakers, and toy pistol caps are permitted.

However, explosive or aerial fireworks, roman candles and rockets or similar devices

are specifically prohibited.

Here are some helpful tips to keep in mind: don't let children play with fireworks or set them off without adult supervision; read the warnings, rules and instructions; do not carry fireworks in pockets; never smoke when handling fireworks; do not consume alcohol while lighting any fireworks; wear eye protection; have a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby.

Camping

Planning a safe, family camping trip can be an enjoyable experience if you are prepared. Knowing limits, taking the time to plan ahead and packing the right items will help the adventure go off without a hitch.

Plan the trip so that arrival at the actual campsite leaves enough daylight to check it over and set up camp. Pack a first aid kit with antiseptics for cuts and scrapes, tweezers, band-aids, insect repellent, snake-bite kit, pain relievers, sunscreen and any prescribed medications.

Bring emergency supplies to include a map, compass, flashlight, knife, waterproof fire starter, whistle, high-energy food and water. Before leaving, check out the weather report and be aware of sudden weather condition changes.

Fire is a prime concern. Be sure there is an area for a fire that keeps it from spreading laterally or vertically. Whenever a fire is lit at the campsite, be sure someone is assigned to watch it at all times. Always keep water nearby for an emergency. Ensure that when a fire is put out, it stays out. Stir the ashes to make sure there are no buried embers.

Finally, return the campsite to its original condition for the next camper.

These are only some of the safety precautions holiday revelers should consider. More research can be conducted through the Internet or the local library. Careful planning is the key to success.

Book review: James Webb writes about Vietnam in ‘Fields of Fire’

Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

“Fields of Fire” is a novel of emotional power, razor-sharp observation and painful human truths as seen through the eyes of troops in non-stop combat.

In his book, James Webb intertwines a cast of vivid characters and captures the journey of camouflaged-clad men through a torturous war until each man finds his fate.

They each had their reasons for being a Marine; each had their illusions. “Goodrich” came from Harvard; “Snake” got a tattoo that said “death before dishonor” before he even received the uniform; Hodges was haunted by the ghosts of family heroes.

They were three young men from different backgrounds plunged into a murderous world of jungle warfare as it was fought by one Marine platoon in the An Hoa Basin, 1969.

The men had no way of knowing what awaited them, and nothing could have prepared them for what was to come.

In the heat of battle, the young men took on new identities, learned about each other and were each reborn.

“Fields of Fire” is a chilling and brilliant portrayal of the Vietnam War and the men who fought in it.

Webb’s father was a career Air Force officer who flew B-17s and B-29s during World War II and cargo planes during the Berlin Airlift. He was also a pioneer in the United States missile program and retired as a colonel.

“Fields of Fire” is a story told by a man who experienced many of the same tragedies. The book is considered one of the most accurate accounts of life in the Vietnam War.

After high school, Webb attended the University of Southern California on an National Reserve Officer Training Corps aca-

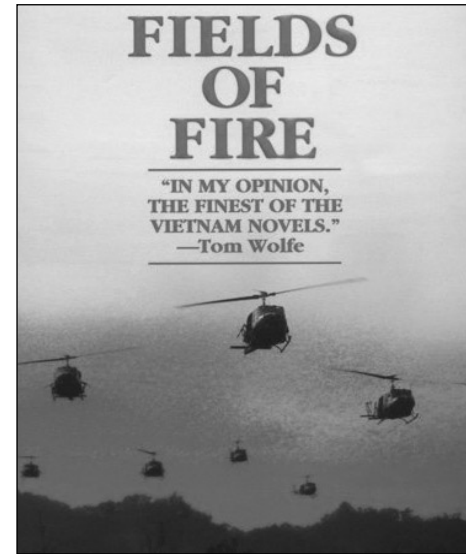
demic scholarship, but he left for the Naval Academy after one year.

Upon graduating in 1968, Webb chose a commission in the Marine Corps and was one of 18 in his class of 841 to receive the Superintendent's Commendation for Outstanding Leadership Contributions while a Midshipman.

Webb finished first in his class at The Basic School in Quantico, Va., and went on to serve with the 5th Marine Regiment in Vietnam.

As a rifle platoon and company commander in the An Hoa Basin west of Danang, Webb was awarded the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

He later served as a platoon commander and as an instructor in tactics and weapons at Marine Corps Officer Candidates School and then as a member of the Secretary of the Navy's immediate staff before leaving the Marine Corps in 1972.



courtesy photo

H&HS Moto Club focuses on motorcycle safety

Required personal protective equipment



Helmets - Must have Department of Transportation certification and able to be fastened to a rider's head.

Reflective Vests - The policy of the commanding officer here requires all motorcycle riders to wear reflective safety vests while riding motorcycles.



Gloves - Hand protection must be worn at all times. Unauthorized riding gloves include: workout gloves; martial arts/boxing gloves; fingerless gloves.



Pants/Trousers - It is required by Station order that all riders wear full-length pants or trousers. Shorts and skirts are prohibited.



Boots - Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times while riding. Inappropriate footwear includes sandals, soft-soled shoes, moccasins, etc.



Pfc. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

Ever since motorcycles have been around, Marines have been riding them. With any risky hobby for Marines and Sailors, there is a message of safety and caution.

According to Gunnery Sgt. Jacquelyn D. Somers, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron career retention specialist, the H&HS Moto Club is one way Station Marines can receive good safety tips from experienced riders.

"The Moto Club is, in my opinion, the most proactive effort I've seen any command make to ensure the safety of its Marines, Sailors and civilian employees," said Master Sgt. Kert Lang, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

Lang said he has only been on a few rides because the weather is just starting to warm up, but he plans on playing an active role in the Moto Club.

The club originally began when Lt. Col. Timothy V. Fitzgerald was the commanding officer for H&HS, but according to Somers, "(Lt. Col. Gregory F. Kleine, H&HS commanding officer) has really pushed this program and molded it into what it is today. His whole intent is to promote safety."

"Riding a motorcycle or (all-terrain vehicle), on or off road, is an extremely dangerous hobby," Lang explained. "Under the best of circumstances you still have to be wary of the other drivers who fail to notice you. Defensive driving takes on a whole new meaning when you're on two wheels and not surrounded by

a steel cage."

The H&HS Moto Club holds motorcycle safety classes here along with rides off Station so that riders can experience a more realistic environment.

"We try to locate places that will challenge (riders) a little," said Somers. "We want to give them experience riding on side roads."

Some of the tips covered in the classes offered here include proper passing procedures, slowing down in a curve and fluid acceleration.

"The club's focus is to make us more aware of the risks as riders," said Lang. "If one Marine avoids an accident by developing better riding habits, then the ultimate goal is achieved. Of course, my Marines also enjoy the benefit of getting time off from work for the rides.

"Whatever the motivation behind supporting this club, I think it's going to save someone's life one day."

Most Marines have known friends or family who were injured in motorcycle accidents.

Somers said she believes most of these accidents can be prevented with good safety practices.

"Two of my best friends, both former Marines, are in wheel chairs for the rest of their lives - one from a street bike accident and the other from a moto-cross accident," she said. "Both had wives and children who counted on them as the main source of support.

"I wish (the Moto Club) would have been around for my two friends."

For more information about the H&HS Moto Club, contact Somers at 449-7145 or e-mail jacquelyn.somers@usmc.mil.



Pfc. John D. Cranford

(Above) Gunnery Sgt. Jacquelyn D. Somers, H&HS career retention specialist, explains the details of an upcoming ride on April 22 to the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Moto Club. The Moto Club's primary purpose is to promote safety and awareness to motorcycle riders. Safe driving practices are important on and off base.



Pfc. John D. Cranford



Pfc. John D. Cranford

(Above) Twelve motorcycles of various designs stand in front of the Station Headquarters building April 22, while the Marines receive a safety brief from Somers. The dangers of driving are even more severe when the vehicle is an uncovered, high-speed bike. (Left) Two Marines ride out of the Station Headquarters parking lot to begin a ride with the H&HS Moto Club April 22. Riders are required to wear authorized personal protective equipment at all times.



Pfc. John D. Cranford

(Above) Marines with the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Moto Club line up to begin a group ride April 22. Somers used the first several minutes of the meeting to talk about safety procedures and explain the course to the newer riders. H&HS holds these events periodically in order to teach servicemembers about safe driving tactics on and off military installations.

Save a life, practice ORM



Sgt. Juan Vara

AL QAIM, Iraq -- Lance Cpl. Galen Shelton, Marine Wing Support Squadron-271 Detachment Al Qaim generator mechanic, reinstalls a fuel strainer on a diesel generator on June 13, that runs air conditioning units used to help keep Marines cool and ready for duty.

MWSS-272 Marines keep utilities running, air cool

Sgt. Juan Vara
contributor

AL QAIM, Iraq -- The Marines in the utilities section of Marine Wing Support Squadron-271, Detachment Al Qaim, have stories to tell.

Lance Cpl. Eric T. Wright, an air conditioner mechanic from Tampa Bay, Fla., recalls the time he spent hours trying to fix an air conditioner in one of the wooden buildings here and couldn't make it work. After trying almost everything, he flipped the circuit breaker. The air conditioner worked.

Cpl. Kelly Rohrer, an electrician, remembers the time they received a call that there was a problem with the lights in one of the buildings.

"All I had to do was flip the switch," said Rohrer, a native of Austin, Texas. "They weren't giving enough time for the bulbs to warm up, so they kept turning them on and off real quick."

After taking care of important assignments in the mornings when it's still somewhat cool outside, these Marines spend the rest of their day responding to trouble calls. Their primary roles are fixing or maintaining all generators and air conditioners and wiring or rewiring buildings as needed.

The higher temperatures require the air conditioners to work harder, and according to Wright, they've been breaking down more often.

"Every three to four days an air conditioner goes down," he said.

With the weather outside not being particularly magic, the air

conditioners not only keep personnel cool, but also maintain computers, radios, radars and other high-tech equipment.

"The entire operation is pretty much run off of computers now," said Rohrer. "All of that needs power. A lot of the gear needs air conditioners to stay cool, and generators power those air conditioners."

All in all, things have slowed down in comparison to when they first arrived here months ago.

"We worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Lance Cpl. Galen Shelton, a generator mechanic.

Shelton was presented with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his professional achievements in fixing and maintaining generators and conduct beyond the call of duty.

Sgt. Eric S. Santos, utilities chief, said that since they're on call 24 hours a day, sometimes, they work an entire day shift and sleep for a few hours; it isn't unusual to be awakened to work for most of the night and continue working the next day.

"Since we got here, we've rewired 18 huts and installed 40 to 50 air conditioners," said Santos. "Our biggest job now is maintaining things."

Santos said he's glad to have these Marines because they do their best to support not only the units under the forward deployed 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, but also their neighbors from the 2nd Marine Division.

These Marines enjoy the work, and know that the service they provide is needed to accomplish the mission.

CRIME STOPPERS

- * Report crime anywhere in our community.
- * Caller never reveals his/her identity.
- * Pays **CASH** rewards up to \$2,500.00.
- * Information must lead to arrest and indictment.
- * Reward is collected through code system.

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Marine Corps
Bases and all
of Onslow
County a safe
place to live
and prosper.



Call the local 24 hour hot line **938-3273**

Reports

Theft

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Camp Lejeune, N.C., is investigating the following incident: between 11:30 a.m., June 17, and 7:30 a.m., June 20, person(s) unknown entered building M-125, Camp Johnson, N.C., and stole 25 black Dell laptop computers. There were no signs of forced entry to the building. Estimated value of stolen property is \$50,000. Persons with information are asked to call Jacksonville/Onslow County/Camp Lejeune Crime Stoppers.

Robbery

On June 18, at approximately 1 a.m., an individual made a delivery to Southern Auto Parts located at 2548 Onslow Drive, Jacksonville, N.C. While the individual was removing materials from his vehicle, three suspects approached him. The suspects struck the victim on the back of the head and demanded money. When the victim didn't immediately comply with demands, he was struck again and threatened with what appeared to be a nine-millimeter semi-automatic pistol. The victim gave the suspects a small amount of money, and they fled the area on foot. The suspects were described as three black males approximately twenty-five to thirty years old wearing dark colored clothing.

New River Air Station

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New River

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4TH ANNUAL

Kick Osprey Soccer

\$55 PER PERSON

Children must bring a water bottle, cleats and tennis shoes every day.

JULY 11-15
(REGISTER: June 1 - 30)
(5 - 10 yrs old: 0830-1130)
(11 - 15 yrs old: 1230-1530)

5TH ANNUAL

Rotoball Basketball

\$55 PER PERSON

Children must bring a water bottle, tennis shoes every day.

JULY 18-22
(REGISTER: June 6 - July 8)
(5 - 10 yrs old: 0830-1130)
(11 - 15 yrs old: 1230-1530)

1ST ANNUAL

Kickoff Football

\$55 PER PERSON

Children must bring a water bottle, mouth piece, cleats and tennis shoes every day.

JULY 25-29
(8 - 11 yrs old: 0830-1130)
(12 - 15 yrs old: 1230-1530)
REGISTER June 13 - July 15

OPEN TO DEPENDENTS OF ACTIVE DUTY, RETIREES, DoD, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES.

H&HS 'Electric Company' turns on juice, wins 21-19

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

On June 16, Marine Corps Air Station New River experienced a momentary, yet complete, loss of power.

The missing power was rediscovered that same night in the bats of the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron softball team as they slipped past Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, with a final score of 21-19, in the annual Marine Corps Community Service Intramural Softball Championship game.

H&HS found themselves down 17-12 in the bottom of the sixth, one inning from disaster. MALS-29 starting pitcher, Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Gordon, MALS-29 operations chief, surrendered a double to Sgt. Christopher J. Kemery, Marine Air Control Squadron-2, Detachment Bravo supply chief, and intentionally walked power-hitter Lance Cpl. Shaun Lada, Air Traffic Control clerk, who'd already launched two moon shots in the first and third innings.

The next batter would make MALS-29 pay, as Sgt. Joseph J. Rodriguez, ATC radar watch, smacked a three-run home run to left field, opening the floodgates and making the score 17-15. H&HS would go on to score six more runs in the inning, pushing the score to 21-17.

In the top of the seventh, MALS-29

needed to tie the score to stay in the game. The "Wolverines" fought back like a pack of wild dogs, scoring two quick runs and refusing to go away.

The effort would be in vain, however, as H&HS pitcher Capt. Jimmy S. Hicks, MACS-2, Det. B officer-in-charge, slammed the door shut by forcing a trio of ground ball outs, handing H&HS a 21-19 championship victory.

"I give them all the credit; it was a game to the end," said Hicks. "There was a little bit of doubt, but when you have the hammer and the last at bat, you always have a chance."

The game featured a contrast in styles: H&HS scoring their runs in giant gulps of homerun power while MALS-29 manufactured their runs with smart play and solid base running.

"Our goal tonight was to get to the championship and give them a game," said Gordon. "I'm proud as hell of all of these guys. We showed them tonight that MALS-29 wanted to win this ball game."

Lada received the game ball for his two game-changing home runs and for his 2-for-3, four RBI performance that included two free passes to first.

"Tonight, they blew my mind; they were killing the ball," said Lada. "It feels good to win a championship, and it means a lot for coach to give me the



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 plays the field and throws out a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron player at first base June 16, during the MCCS Intramural Softball Championship.

game ball."

H&HS finished the regular season 10-2, while MALS-29 was 6-6.

H&HS received individual and team championship trophies while MALS-29 was awarded the second place trophy.

MCCS offers new swim courses at Station pool

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola
correspondent

Marine Corps Community Services is offering two new swim courses for both active duty servicemembers and civilians at the Station pool.

A swimming stroke clinic, designed for able swimmers seeking improvement in their stroke, and a two-day water survival training course, open only for active duty military members looking to hone swim qualification skills, are now available here, said Philip Brown, MCCS fitness director.

The stroke clinic is offered every Monday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and aids swimmers by highlighting a weekly swim stroke and teaching different techniques for better performance, said Brown.

"This is something we thought of for those lap swimmers that are trying to improve," said Brown. "We'll sit on the sideline, critique their stroke and coach them. This is basically an hour of coaching."

"I think it will help improve their stroke and help everybody swim, in general," said Leslie Napiorkowski, MCCS lead lifeguard. "Who wants to be afraid to go to the beach or to the pool?"

The two-day water survival training course is offered each Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and will concentrate on swim strokes utilized during Marine Corps swim qualification, said Brown.

"We're not trying to replace Marine Corps swim training," said Brown. "This is for those active duty servicemembers who are borderline performers. We'll teach them so that they can excel."

The stroke clinic costs \$10, while the two-day water survival training course is open only to active duty servicemembers and costs a one-time fee of \$15 that covers both days.

All courses are taught by American Red Cross board certified water safety instructors.

For more information about the stroke clinic or water survival training, or to request either training for your unit, contact Brown at 449-5845.



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

(Above) Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron third baseman and power hitter Lance Cpl. Shaun Lada, Air Traffic Control clerk, blasts a third-inning pitch over the left center field wall during the Marine Corps Community Services Intramural Softball Championship game June 16. Lada was awarded the game ball for his 2-for-3, four-RBI performance that included two home runs. (Right) H&HS team members pose with their championship trophies and individual championship trophies after defeating Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, 21-19, in the MCCS Intramural Softball Championship game on June 16.



Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Cosola

Bulk fuel specialists keep birds flying, equipment running



AL QAIM, Iraq – Lance Cpl. Mark A. Moher, a bulk fuel specialist assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron-271, Detachment Al Qaim, waits for a signal to stop the flow of fuel during the refueling of a CH-53E Super Stallion. The squadron also refuels all generators on base.

Story and photos by
Sgt. Juan Vara

AL QAIM, Iraq -- They're not in the air providing ground support to Marines in contact with the enemy or evacuating the wounded; but they round out the operation and add another piece to the puzzle that accomplishes the mission.

The piece is large, and little can be completed without it.

While the aircraft can be in superb mechanical condition and have the best pilots at the controls they're not going anywhere without the fuel that keeps them soaring.

The bulk fuel specialists from Marine Wing Support Squadron-271, Detachment Al Qaim are mostly responsible for refueling Marine Corps and Army helicopters based here. They also refuel all generators on base and all transient aircraft.

Each day, they refuel an average of 10 to 15 helicopters and dispense close to 5,000 gallons of fuel. Not an easy task for a section of seven Marines.

"Without fuel, all the Marine Corps has are ground troops and their weapons," said Lance Cpl. Mark A. Moher, a native of Naugatuck, Conn. "The aircraft and the convoys need fuel, and without it, they're not going anywhere."

Most days aboard this remote, forward-arming refueling point, just a few miles from the Syrian border, are routine with frequent air transports delivering personnel and cargo here. This calm is enjoyed by most, and comes after a recent operation



AL QAIM, Iraq – Lance Cpl. Jason W. Head, a bulk fuel specialist assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron-271, Detachment Al Qaim puts away the fuel hose after refueling an AH-1W Super Cobra from Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-269, Det. Al Qaim on June 9. Originally from Atlanta, Head is one of the seven Marines in the fuels section of MWSS-271, Det. Al Qaim who refuel both Marine Corps and Army aircraft based here, generators and transient aircraft.

where the size of their detachment was doubled to support the increase of activity. Their workload was tripled.

"During Operation Matador, we had to set up six extra refueling

points, and seven Marines came from Al Asad to help out," said Moher. "There was a lot of work."

The system they use here to receive, store and dispense fuel is familiar to every Marine in their section.

According to Moher, it's very similar to one at an auxiliary landing field in eastern North Carolina where their unit conducted several exercises in preparation for the deployment.

Cpl. Jeff Lester, from Grundy, Va., said training exercises like the Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course and Desert Talon, both conducted at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz., gave the Marines an opportunity to practice their skills in a desert environment with different types of aircraft.

"That helped a lot," said Moher. "Desert Talon and WT17 gave a lot of our people hands-on training with rotary-wing aircraft."

Taking a great deal of pride in what they do, the bulk fuel specialists know that while they're away from their loved ones, their presence here is important to the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I'm sure everybody here would like to be at home right now, but this isn't that bad," said Lester. "We're helping people here."

The truth of the matter

Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron D. Painter
MAG-26 religious program specialist



I look at the world around me and see all of the many different conflicts that are either religiously based or have significant religious context toward the troubles, and I wonder where the truth really lies.

The peace process has completely broken down between Israel and Palestine, Nigeria is troubled with battles between Muslims and Christians, Kashmir, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Sudan and others all over the globe are fighting against one another.

One common theme throughout the world in these religious conflicts is the truth. It seems each group or faith has their own truth and nobody else could possibly be right. With such black and white thinking - I'm right, therefore, you must be wrong - how will we, as a world community, ever find the peace that so many of us long for?

It reminds me of the Buddhist parable of the Elephant. Many scholars and wandering hermits were in constant dispute over the truth, some said the world was impermanent while others said that the soul is immortal, bickering over their different interpretations about religion and faith. A district lord commanded that all the blind men be brought to his court; each was given a different body part of an elephant to describe. One man felt the tusk and described the elephant to be like a plow. Another was given a leg and his description was like that of a

column. One blind man described a brush when given the tail, another a pot when describing the head, one a winnowing fan when describing the ears.

All the blind men started arguing about what the elephant looked like, "This way!" "That way!" "No it isn't!" "Yes it is!" Then they came to blows about it. The district lord loved it, saying, "Just so are these preachers and scholars holding various views blind and unseeing...in their ignorance they are by nature quarrelsome, wrangling and disputatious, each maintaining reality is thus and thus."

Then the Exalted One rendered this meaning by uttering this verse of uplift, "O how they cling and wrangle, some who claim, for preacher and monk the honored name! For, quarreling, each to his view they cling. Such folk see only one side of a thing."

May we all find peace within ourselves and share that peace with those we meet. May we not impose our "truths" on others, nor discredit the beliefs of anyone else.

Memorial Chapel Services

Catholic 9 a.m.
Protestant 11 a.m.

For more information, call the Memorial Chapel at 449-6801.



Marine paints masterpieces in chapel

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

In 1512, Michelangelo put the finishing touches on a masterwork inside one of the most famous churches in the history, the Sistine Chapel.

The frescos he created there stand as a testament to the kind of lasting impression man can create, setting a new precedent in religious art.

Lance Cpl. Sara K. Jones is attempting to recreate this same effect at Memorial Chapel here.

"I painted the Chaplain Corps seal first," she explained. "When the chaplain saw it, he asked me to paint the Religious Program Specialist seal, the Marine Corps emblem and the Navy

emblem."

Jones, who is from Calhoun, Tenn., received a scholarship to the Savannah College of Art after graduating high school, but opted instead to join the Marine Corps and has been working at Memorial Chapel for about a year.

"Members of the congregation seem to like (my paintings)," she said. "I am getting complimented all the time. One woman actually argued with me that they were paintings, because she thought they were stickers."

Even the command chaplain, Cmdr. Henry W. Hensley, has noted the paintings as being an improvement in the chapel.

"In undertaking this proj-

ect and doing an exceptional job, she has enhanced the morale and 'esprit de corps' of the chapel staff," he said.

All four of these paintings decorate the interior of the main office and took about a month to complete, she said.

She said her next project will include painting a mural depicting famous scenes from the Bible across one of the classroom walls.

Like her famous Renaissance predecessors, Jones said she is content with the outcome of her work, and she hopes the paintings will remain on the walls for years to come.

"I just wanted to create a lasting impression of my time spent at Memorial Chapel," she said.

Lance Cpl. Sara K. Jones paints details in one of the four seals she is creating in the Memorial Chapel here.

Jones painted the Chaplain Corps seal first and when the Command Chaplain, Cmdr. Henry W. Hensley, saw it he asked her to paint the Religious Program Specialist seal, the Marine Corps emblem and the Navy emblem.

Her next project is painting a mural in one of the Chapel's class-



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

MFSC offers suicide prevention, awareness classes

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Suicide awareness and prevention classes are now being held every month in the Marine and Family Services Center here.

According to the Marine Corps Community Services Web site, by a ratio of 3 to 2, more people in the United States die by suicide each year than by homicide.

As a reflection of society, suicide affects the military as well. In the past ten years, suicide has been the second leading cause of death of Marines.

"It's a very important topic; one of the most important," said Karen Slack, MFSC program manager of prevention and education. "We can't have enough suicide prevention classes."

According to Gunnery Sgt. Stanley L. Powell, MFSC staff noncommissioned offi-

cer-in-charge, the center conducts three types of suicide classes.

The awareness class is a fast paced brief given at safety standowns. It covers the roles and responsibilities of the first responder.

The prevention workshop is conducted the second Tuesday of every month at the MFSC. It goes in depth about the responsibilities of the first responder and features a video to assist the learning process.

The command request classes are made by appointment only and usually address entire squadrons.

These classes cover a lot of information and include uses of the facilitators kit - which was designed by Headquarters Marine Corps to help combat suicide.

"Suicide awareness is very important," said Powell, who has been conducting these classes for the last five months.

"Statistics show we lose a percentage

of Marines every year due to suicide, but it shouldn't even be considered an option.

"It is OK to get help and to have problems. The Marine Corps leadership stands firm in addressing these issues before they become serious issues."

According to Slack, the classes are open to all ranks and are being conducted in order to ensure all servicemembers stationed here receive information about suicide.

"We inform all people, regardless of rank," she said. "We offer the resources people need to do something to help and tell them that we are here."

"We work for them. One ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Powell said he has noticed an increase in turnout and responses have been numerous, especially by young leaders and shop level noncommissioned officers-in-charge.

To schedule a class for a group of ser-

vicemembers or to get help and advice, call Powell at 449-5254 or MCCS One Source at 1-800-433-6868.

Ask, don't be afraid to ask if the person is thinking of suicide. Intervene immediately and take action.

Don't keep it a secret. Locate help, seek out the chaplain, physician, friend, etc. right away. Inform the chain of command, they can aid people in finding resources and help monitor and assure people receive the help needed.

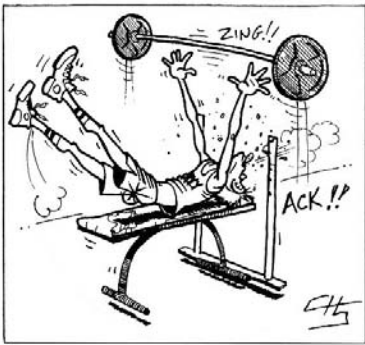
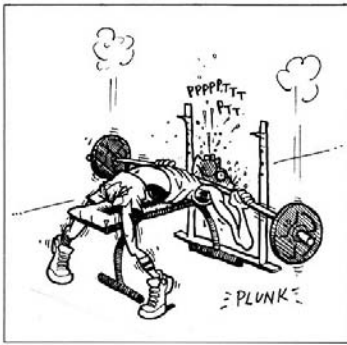
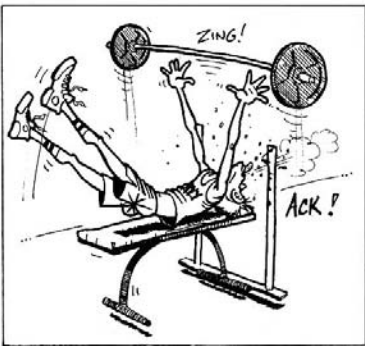
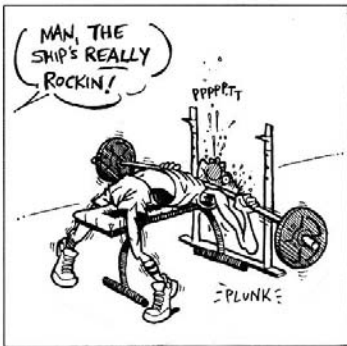
Find someone, don't leave the person alone. Expedite, don't delay any steps; get help right away.

LC10 LCTV-10 Schedule LC10

June 27 - July 1

Show Title	Show Times
Shooting Gallery Episode.....	7:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m.
The Morning Report	8 a.m., 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m., 12 a.m., 4 a.m.
Air Force News	8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m.
Your Corps	9 a.m., 5 p.m., 1 a.m.
Army News	9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 1:30 a.m.
With the Gallant Breed.....	10 a.m., 6 p.m., 2 a.m.
Destination Chicago.....	11:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m., 3:30 a.m.
The Pacific Report.....	12:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 4:30 a.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News.....	1 p.m., 9 p.m., 5 a.m.
Inside R/C.....	1:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 5:30 a.m.
Pentagon Ch. On Assignment	2 p.m., 10 p.m., 6 a.m.
Pentagon Ch. Studio 5	2:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m., 6:30 a.m.
Jacksonville University.....	3 p.m., 11 p.m., 7 a.m.

FEATHERNECK CRAIG H. STREETER



Water Torture.

Safety Office Snippets

Lawnmower Safety

People need to use common sense when mowing and teach children to stay clear of running mowers. A few simple guidelines can help reduce injuries:

Buy a mower that has a "kill switch" built into it so when the engine stops, the mower stops running.

Do not remove or disable any safety devices. There are sensible age limits for operating mowers.

Children should not be in the yard while it is being mowed.

Wear the proper gear: protective boots, clothing, safety glasses and hearing protection. Never wear flip-flops or mow in your bare feet.

Pick up rocks, sticks, pine cones and toys prior to mowing. Fuel the engine prior to starting it, not while it's running or hot. Do not cut

wet grass.

Mowers are not transportation vehicles. Never consume alcohol prior to or while mowing.

Use caution when mowing on hills and slopes.

Mow horizontal to the hill with a push mower and follow the manufactures recommendations for riding mowers.

Disconnect the spark plug prior to performing any maintenance.

Turn off the mower and ensure the blade has stopped turning before removing the grass catcher and use a stick or broom handle when removing debris; never use your hands or feet.

Editor's note: Information provided by the New River Department of Safety and Standardization. Call 449-6675 for all safety-related questions.

Station Theater Movies

June 29 - July 17

Day/Date	Time	Title	Rating	Length
Wed. June 29	7 p.m.	Crash	R	100 min.
Fri. July 1	7 p.m.	Kicking and Screaming	PG	96 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Mindhunters	R	105 min.
Sat. July 2	7 p.m.	Kicking and Screaming	PG	96 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Monster-In-Law	PG-13	102 min.
Sun. July 3	3 p.m.	Kicking and Screaming	PG	96 min.
	6 p.m.	Mindhunters	R	105 min.
Wed. July 6	7 p.m.	Mindhunters	R	105 min.
Fri. July 8	6:30 p.m.	The Longest Yard	PG-13	109 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Star Wars III	PG-13	142 min.
Sat. July 9	7 p.m.	The Longest Yard	PG-13	109 min.
	12:00 a.m.	Star Wars III	PG-13	142 min.
Sun. July 10	3 p.m.	Star Wars III	PG-13	142 min.
Mon. July 11	1 p.m.	Princess Diaries	PG	111 min.
	7 p.m.	The Longest Yard	PG-13	109 min.
Wed. July 13	7 p.m.	Star Wars III	PG-13	142 min.
Fri. July 15	7 p.m.	Madagascar	PG	80 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Cinderella Man	PG-13	144 min.
Sat. July 16	7 p.m.	Madagascar	PG	80 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Cinderella Man	PG-13	144 min.
Sun. July 17	3 p.m.	Cinderella Man	PG-13	144 min.
	6 p.m.	Madagascar	PG	80 min.



The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins. Movies and times are subject to change.



For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.

A \$1 admission fee is charged for ages seven and above.

"When in the course of human events..."

Taxation without representation! That was the battle cry of the 13 colonies in America who were forced to pay taxes to England's King George III with no representation in Parliament. As dissatisfaction grew, British troops were sent in to quell any signs of rebellion, and repeated attempts by the colonists to resolve the crisis without war proved fruitless.

On June 11, 1776, the colonies' Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia formed a committee with the express purpose of drafting a document that would formally sever their ties with Great Britain. The committee included Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman and Robert R. Livingston. The document was crafted by Jefferson, who was considered the strongest and most eloquent writer.

Nevertheless, a total of 86 changes were made to his draft. The final version was officially adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4.

The following day, copies of the Declaration of Independence were distributed and, on July 6, The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first newspaper to print the extraordinary document.

The Declaration of Independence has since become our nation's most cherished symbol of liberty.

Bonfires and Illuminations

On July 8, 1776, the first public readings of the Declaration were held in Philadelphia's Independence Square to the ringing of bells and band music. One year later, on July 4, 1777, Philadelphia marked Independence Day by adjourning Congress and celebrating with bonfires, bells and fireworks.

The custom eventually spread to other towns, both large and small, where the day was marked with processions, oratory, picnics, contests, games, military displays and fireworks. Observations throughout the nation became even more common at the end of the War of 1812 with Great Britain.

On June 24, 1826, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Roger C. Weightman, declining an invitation to come to Washington, D.C., to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. It was the last letter that Jefferson, who was gravely ill, ever wrote. In it, Jefferson says of the document:

"May it be to the world, what I believe it will be ... the signal of arousing men to burst the chains ... and to assume the blessings and security of self-government. That form, which we have substituted, restores the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion. All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. For ourselves, let the annual return of this day forever refresh our recollections of these rights, and an undiminished devotion to them."

Congress established Independence Day as a holiday in 1870 and in 1938 Congress reaffirmed it as a holiday, but with full pay for federal employees. Today, communities across the nation mark this major midsummer holiday with parades, fireworks, picnics and the playing of the "Star-

Spangled Banner" and marches by John Philip Sousa.

Special Celebrations

Many Fourth of July customs have not changed since our earliest celebrations. But some communities across the nation have developed their own special traditions.

Celebrants in Seward, Ala., take part in a six-mile foot race to the top of Mount Marathon and back. Further north in Kotzebue, Ala., traditional Inuit contests are held.

The citizens of Lititz, Pa., have spent their winters since 1818 making thousands of candles so that the children of the town can light them during a special "Festival of Candles" the night of July 4.

Finally, on July 4, the community of Tecumseh,

Neb., raises more than 200 flags around the courthouse as a way of remembering those who have served in our country's armed forces. Each flagpole bears the name of a man or woman from Tecumseh who has served in the United States military.

Editor's note: Information for this article was obtained from <http://www.pbs.org/capitol-fourth/history.html>

July 4th Fireworks Shows

Camp Lejeune

Event opens at 5:30 p.m., W.P.T.Hill Field

Entertainment: Great American Voices featuring Opera Carolina & Winston Salem Symphony perform at 7:30 with fireworks to follow. Visit <http://www.mecslejeune.com/July4.html> or call 451-3535.

Jacksonville

Freedom Festival

Hosted by Onslow Co. Parks & Rec. 1250 Onslow Pines Road
Events start at 2 p.m.

Entertainment: Classic Collection Band perform at 5:30 p.m. with fireworks to follow.

Visit <http://co.onslow.nc.us/parks/> or call 347-5332.

Swansboro

Fireworks Display hosted by Swansboro Chamber of Commerce.

Visit www.swansboronccchamber.org or call 326-1174.

Sneads Ferry

2nd Annual Sneads Ferry 4th of July Fireworks

Sneads Ferry Community Park
Contact Sneads Ferry Community Council at 327-3335.

Sneads Ferry Fireworks Cruise

Departs from Paradise Landing Marina at 7 p.m. and returns at 11p.m. View the Camp Lejeune Fireworks while cruising down the river. Cost \$20 per person. Visit www.paradiselandingmarina.com or call 327-2114 or 327-2133.

Surf City

Surf City Fireworks July 3rd
Soundside Park from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Visit <http://topsailcoc.com> or call 329-4446.

